

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

DHA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /107 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2079

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJ: 29TH SESSION SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES 12 AUG. - 1 SEPT.

ITEM 10 - QUESTION OF SLAVERY AND SLAVE TRADE - AUG. 24-25.

1. CHAIRMEN-RAPPORTEURS KINYANJUI (KENYA) AND WHITAKER (U.K.) HIGHLIGHTED DEBT BONDAGE; THE SALE OF INFANTS FOR ADOPTION AND THE MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT IN RHODESIA, IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THIS ITEM. THE WG ALSO NOTED CRITICAL SITUATION OF ACHE INDIANS IN PARAGUAY AND RECOMMENDED FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

2. ORTIZ MARTIN (COSTA RICA ) THEN DENIED CHARGE MADE BY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY THAT SLAVERY EXISTED IN CENTRAL AMERICAN AND RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT VALUE OF THE WORKING GROUP AS DID MARTINEZ COBO. (THE CHAIRMAN WAS VISIBLY ANGRY SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM BECAUSE OF CHARGES MADE ABOUT SLAVERY IN LATIN AMERICA.)

3. AMBASSADOR CARTER (U.S.) SAID HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE ANYONE COULD SAY NO SLAVERY PRACTICED IN  
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THEIR REGIONS. HE SAID DOCUMENT REFERRED TO SITUATION

NOT REGIONS, AND WG RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. HE ALSO SUPPORTED CONTINUATION OF WG AND URGED THEY BE GIVEN MORE SUPPORT.

4. RETENTION OF WG WAS SUPPORTED BY JIMETA (NIGERIA), SINGH (INDIA), QUESTIAUX (FRANCE), MARTINEZ BAEZ (MEXICO) AND CAICEDO PERDOMO (COLOMBIA). THE LATTER MEMBER INTRODUCED THEORY THAT LAND REFORM CREATED DEBT BONDAGE WHICH LED TO A FRUITLESS DISCUSSION ABOUT MERITS AGRARIAN REFORM. NETTEL (AUSTRIA) HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONTINUING WG. SMIRNOV (USSR) CITED SC RES 11 (XXVII) WHICH STATES THAT WHEN COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS ENTERS INTO FORCE, IT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SLAVERY ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE SC SHOULD ACCEPT ITS DECISION.

5. CAICEDO PERDOMO, REFERRING TO ALLEGATIONS OF SLAVERY IN CENTRAL AMERICAN, EXPLAINED THAT SOME SITUATIONS OCCURRED OUT OF CUSTOM. HE NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED IN COLOMBIA AND CONCLUDED BY ASKING NGO'S TO VISIT LATIN AMERICAN AND SEE THAT NO SLAVERY EXISTS.

6. WHITAKER, REPLYING TO QUESTIONS AND CRITICISM, STATED THAT THE SITUATION (SLAVERY) NOT THE CONTINENT WAS THE FOCUS, AND NATIONAL PRIDE WAS NOT INVOLVED. ALSO SAID HE FELT THAT WG ON SLAVERY COULD BE DISSOLVED WHEN CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE MACHIERY IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED.

7. THE REPORT OF WG WILL BE TAKEN NOTE OF AND RES WILL BE DRAFTED AND CONSIDERED ALONG WITH OTHER RESOLUTIONS MONDAY, 30 AUGUST.

8. DURING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM, SMIRNOV AND GANJI AGAIN LAUNCHED ATTACK ON NGO'S WITH SMIRNOV SAYING SOME STATEMENTS WERE ASSESSING WORK OF SUB-COMMISSION WHICH NGO'S HAD NO RIGHT TO DO. GANJI SAID NGO'S WOULD LOSE THEIR STATUS IF THEY CONTINUED TO ACCUSE COUNTRIES OF VIOLATING HUMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHTS WITHOUT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROVE SUCH ALLEGATIONS.CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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ITEM 10 - QUESTION OF SLAVERY AND SLAVE TRADE - AU  
**TAGS:** SHUM, SF  
**To:** STATE  
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